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#### (57) Abstract

A galanin antagonist which is a galanin receptor ligand is described. Further, new peptides Galanin(1-12)-Pro-Substance P(5-11), Galanin(1-12)-Pro-Bradykinin(2-9), Galanin(1-12)-Pro-Pro-Pro-(Leu<sup>5</sup>-Enkephalin(5-1)), Galanin(1-12)-Pro-Lys(E-NH-)Pro-(Leu5-Enkephalin(5-1)) and functional analogues and functional derivates thereof which exhibit substantially the same galanin antagonistic effect as said peptides are disclosed. Use of the galanin antagonist, a pharmaceutical preparation comprising it and a method of treating a disorder in a mammal which depends on the physiological function of galanin at the galanin receptor are also included.

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#### GALANIN ANTAGONIST

The present invention relates to a galanin antagonist which is a galanin receptor ligand. Further, it relates to the peptides Galanin(1-12)-Pro-Substance P(5-11), 5 Galanin(1-12)-Pro-Bradykinin(2-9), Galanin(1-12)-Pro-Pro-Pro-(Leu<sup>5</sup>-Enkephalin(5-1)), Galanin(1-12)-Pro-Lys( $\varepsilon$ -NH-Pro-(Leu<sup>5</sup>-Enkephalin(5-1)) and functional analogues and functional derivatives thereof which exhibit substantially the same galanin antagonistic effect as 10 said peptides. Use of the galanin antagonist, a pharmaceutical preparation comprising it and a method of treating a disorder in a mammal which depends on the physiological function of galanin at the galanin receptor are also included. 15

#### Background

Neuro-transmitters and hormones can induce their cellular 20 effects by binding to and activating membrane bound receptors. The neuro-peptide galanin was isolated in 1983 from porcine upper intestine and was found to contain 29 amino acid residues (Tatemoto, K., et al, FEBS Lett., 164 (1983) 124-128). The sequences of galanin from two other mammals, rat and cow, have been described (Vrontakis M. 25 E., et al, J. Biol. Chem. 262(1987) 16755-16758; Kaplan L. M. et al, Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A. 85(1988) 1065-1069 and Rokaeus A. and Carlquist M., FEBS Lett. 234 (1988) 400-406). A comparison of the peptide sequence of galanin from the mammals rat, porcine and bovine reveals 30 that the N-terminal amino acids 1-15 are identical. Thus, it is most likely that said conserved region will be found in galanin from other mammals, including man.

35 Galanin has a wide pattern of distribution, often correlating with multiple neuro-formula actions exerted in a variety of different systems.

Hitherto no galanin antagonists, which are galanin receptor ligands, have been reported. A galanin antagonist would be a useful tool in determining the physiological significance of galanin and to develope pharmaceutical preparations for the regulation of the physiological function of galanin at the galanin receptor.

# Description of the invention

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One aspect of the invention is directed to a galanin antagonist which is a galanin receptor ligand. Thus, the antagonistic effect of the galanin antagonist according to the invention is exercised at galanin receptors. In an embodiment of this aspect of the invention the antagonist is selected from the group consisting of the peptides

H-Gly-Trp-Thr-Leu-Asn-Ser-Ala-Gly-Tyr-Leu-Leu-Gly-Pro-Gln-Gln-Phe-Phe-Gly-Leu-Met-X,

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H-Gly-Trp-Thr-Leu-Asn-Ser-Ala-Gly-Tyr-Leu-Leu-Gly-Pro--Pro-Pro-Gly-Phe-Ser-Pro-Phe-Arg-X,

H-Gly-Trp-Thr-Leu-Asn-Ser-Ala-Gly-Tyr-Leu-Leu-Gly-Pro--Pro-Pro-Leu-Phe-Gly-Gly-Tyr-X,

H-Gly-Trp-Thr-Leu-Asn-Ser-Ala-Gly-Tyr-Leu-Leu-Gly-Pro--Lys-X

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Pro-Leu-Phe-Gly-Gly-Tyr-H

wherein X represents -NH2 or -OH (amide or free acid), and functional analogues and functional derivatives thereof.

In the specification and claims, it is intended that "functional analogues" of the peptides of the invention i.a. should comprise shorter of longer peptides, with or

without substitution of one or several amino acid residues for other amino acid residues, as long as such analogues exhibit substantially the same pharmacological function as the peptides of the invention, i.e. are galanin antagonists at the galanin receptor.

Further, it is intended that "functional derivatives" of the peptides according to the invention comprise any compound which exhibits substantially the same

10 pharmacological function as the peptides of the invention, i.e. is a galanin antagonist at the galanin receptor. Specifically, such a compound could be one which is derived from one of the peptides of the invention, but wherein one or several amino acid residues

15 are substituted for other chemical groups, i.e. organic as well as inorganic molecules or elements resulting in a "peptidomimetic".

It is believed that it is the structural conformation at the galanin receptor of a peptide according to the invention which is responsible for its pharmacological function as a galanin antagonist and for its affinity to the galanin receptor (thus being a galanin receptor ligand).

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Thus, it is believed that the functional derivatives and the functional analogues comprised by the invention should have a similar structural conformation at the galanin receptor as the peptides of the invention. The surrounding of the galanin receptor could be mimicked by e.g. blood or physiological saline solution.

Another aspect of the invention is directed to the peptides

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H-Gly-Trp-Thr-Leu-Asn-Ser-Ala-Gly-Tyr-Leu-Leu-Gly-Pro-Gln-Gln-Phe-Phe-Gly-Leu-Met-X,

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H-Gly-Trp-Thr-Leu-Asn-Ser-Ala-Gly-Tyr-Leu-Leu-Gly-Pro--Pro-Pro-Gly-Phe-Ser-Pro-Phe-Arg-X,

H-Gly-Trp-Thr-Leu-Asn-Ser-Ala-Gly-Tyr-Leu-Leu-Gly-Pro--Pro-Pro-Leu-Phe-Gly-Gly-Tyr-X,

H-Gly-Trp-Thr-Leu-Asn-Ser-Ala-Gly-Tyr-Leu-Leu-Gly-Pro--Lys-X

10 Pro-Leu-Phe-Gly-Gly-Tyr-H

wherein X represents -NH<sub>2</sub> or -OH (amide or free acid), and functional analogues and functional derivatives thereof which exhibit substantially the same galanin antagonistic effect as said peptides.

As mentioned above, the peptides may also be named Galanin-(1-12)-Pro-Substance P(5-11), Galanin(1-12)-Pro-Bradykinin(2-9), Galanin(1-12)-Pro-Pro-Pro-(Leu<sup>5</sup>-Enkephalin(5-1)) and Galanin(1-12-Pro-Lys( $\epsilon$ -NH-)Pro-(Leu<sup>5</sup>-Enkephalin(5-1)), respectively.

In the experimental part of this specification the above listed peptides, in amide form (i.e.  $X = -NH_2$ ), have been named M15, M35, M36, A and M34, A, respectively.

Functional analogs may be peptides such as

H-Gly-Trp-Thr-Leu-Asn-Ser-Ala-Gly-Tyr-Leu-Leu-Gly-Pro-(D-Arg)-Pro-Lys-Pro-Gln-Gln-(D-Trp)-Phe-(D-Trp)-Leu-Leu-X

H-Gly-Trp-Thr-Leu-Asn-Ser-Ala-Gly-Tyr-Leu-Leu-Gly-Pro--Pro-Pro-Gln-Phe-Phe-Gly-Leu-Met-X

H-Gly-Trp-Thr-Leu-Asn-Ser-Ala-Gly-Tyr-Leu-Leu-Gly-Pro--Ala-Leu-Ala-Leu-Ala-Leu-Ala-X

H-Gly-Trp-Thr-Leu-Asn-Ser-Ala-Gly-Tyr-Leu-Leu-Gly-Pro-Pro-Pro-Ala-Leu-Ala-Leu-Ala-X

H-Gly-Trp-Thr-Leu-Asn-Ser-Ala-Gly-Tyr-Leu-Leu-Gly-Pro--Pro-Gly-Phe-Ser-Pro-Phe-Arg-X

H-Gly-Trp-Thr-Leu-Asn-Ser-Ala-Gly-Tyr-Leu-Leu-Gly-Pro--Arg-His-Tyr-Ile-Asn-Leu-Ile-Thr-Arg-Gln-Arg-Tyr-X

10 H-Gly-Trp-Thr-Leu-Asn-Ser-Ala-Gly-Tyr-Leu-Leu-Gly-Ala--Arg-His-Tyr-Ile-Asn-Leu-Ile-Thr-Arg-Gln-Arg-Tyr-X

H-Gly-Trp-Thr-Leu-Asn-Ser-Ala-Gly-Tyr-Leu-Leu-Gly-Pro-Pro-Pro-Tyr-Gly-Gly-Phe-Leu-X

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H-Gly-Trp-Thr-Leu-Asn-Ser-Ala-Gly-Tyr-Leu-Leu-Gly-Pro-Pro-Pro-Leu-Phe-Gly-Gly-Tyr-X

wherein X represents -NH2 or -OH (amide or free acid).

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A further aspect of the invention is directed to the use of a galanin antagonist which is a galanin receptor ligand for the preparation of a pharmaceutical preparation. It can be mentioned that the above listed peptides are soluble in water, which facilitates the preparation of a pharmaceutical preparation for injection.

Yet another aspect of the invention is directed to a 30 galanin antagonist which is a galanin receptor ligand for use in a pharmaceutical preparation.

Yet a further aspect of the invention is directed to a pharmaceutical preparation comprising a galanin antagonist which is a galanin receptor ligand as an active ingredient, together with pharmaceutically acceptable additive(s). Depending on the specific type of

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pharmaceutical preparation to be prepared, such additive(s) should be chosen to make up the desired preparation. Suitable additive(s) for the specific type of preparation to be prepared, such as solutions for injection, tablets or plasters, can be found in the U.S. Pharmacopoeia.

Thus the present invention also provides compositions containing an effective amount of compounds of the present invention, including the nontoxic addition salts, amides and esters thereof, which may, alone, serve to provide the above-recited therapeutic benefits. Such compositions can also be provided together with physiologically tolerable liquid, gel or solid diluents, adjuvants and excipients.

These compounds and compositions can be administered to mammals for veterinary use, such as with domestic animals, and clinical use in humans in a manner similar to other therapeutic agents. In general, the dosage required for therapeutic efficacy will range from about 0.01 to 1000 mcg/kg, more usually 0.1 to 1000 mcg/kg of the host body weight. Alternatively, dosages within these ranges can be administered by constant infusion over an extended period of time until the desired therapeutic benefits have been obtained.

Typically, such compositions are prepared as injectables, either as liquid solutions or suspensions; solid forms suitable for solution in, or suspension in, liquid prior to injection may also be prepared. The preparation may also be emulsified or incorporated in drug delivery systems like liposomes or microspheres. The active ingredient is often mixed with diluents or excipients which are physiologically tolerable and compatible with the active ingredient. Suitable diluents and excipients are, for example, water, saline, dextrose, glycerol, or

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the like, and combinations thereof. In addition, if desired the compositions may contain minor amounts of auxiliary substances such as wetting or emulsifying agents, stabilizing or pH-buffering agents, and the like.

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The compositions are conventionally administered parenterally, by injection, for example, either subcutaneously, intramuscularly, intraperitoneally or intravenously. Additional formulations which are suitable for other modes of administration include suppositories, vagitories, intranasal aerosols, buccal formulat\_ons like adhesive tablets, gels or patches and in some cases, oral formulations. For suppositories and vagitories, traditional binders and excipients may include, for example, polyalkylene glycols or triglycerides; such suppositories may be formed from mixtures containing the active ingredient in the range of 0.5% to 10% preferably 1%-2%. Oral formulations include such normally employed excipients as, for example, pharmaceutical grades of mannitol, lactose, starch, magnesium stearate, sodium saccharin, cellulose, magnesium carbonate, and the like. These compositions take the form of solutions, suspensions, tablets, pills, capsules, sustained-release formulations, or powders, and contain 10%-95% of active ingredient, preferably 25%-70%.

The peptide compounds may be formulated into the compositions as neutral or salt forms. Pharmaceutically acceptable nontoxic salts include the acid addition salts (formed with the free amino groups) and which are formed with inorganic acids such as, for example, hydrochloric or phosphoric acids, or organic acids such as acetic, oxalic, tartaric, mandelic, and the like. Salts formed with the free carboxyl groups may be derived from inorganic bases such as, for example, sodium, potassium, ammonium, calcium, or ferric hydroxides, and such organic bases as ispropylamine, trimethylamine, 2-ethylamino

ethanol, histidine, procaine, and the like.

Still another aspect of the invention is directed to a method of treating a disorder in a mammal which depends on the physiological function of galanin at the galanin receptor, which comprises administering to said mammal a pharmacologically effective amount of a galanin antagonist which is a galanin receptor ligand. Since the physiological function of galanin at the galanin receptor is specific for each individual, the pharmacologically effective amount of a galanin antagonist which is to be administered to treat a disorder in a mammal has to be decided by a physician or veterinary on an individual bases.

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Galanin antagonists would be useful in the regulation of at least the following:
insulin release,
growth hormone release,
20 acetylcholine release,
dopamine release,
Substance P release,
Somatostatin release,
Noradrenaline release.

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At present, the presumed fields of medical indication are endochrinology, food intake, neurology and psychiatry: senile dementia of Alzheimer's type, schizophrenia, analgesia, intestinal diseases.

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# Preparation of a galanin antagonist according to the invention

Conventional methods of preparing peptides can be used to prepare the galanin antagonists of the invention, suitably modified if the antagonist is a peptidomimetic. In addition to liquid phase synthesis, conventional

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procedures for synthesizing the novel compounds of the present invention include any solid phase peptide synthesis method. In such a method the synthesis of the novel compounds can be carried out by sequentially incorporating the desired amino acid residues one at a time into the growing peptide chain according to the general principles of solid phase methods.

#### Abbreviations used in the following:

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NMP = N-Methylpyrrolidone
HOBt = N-hydroxybenzotriazole
MBHA = p-Methylbenzhydrylamine

PAM = p-Acetoxymethyl

15 Boc = tert-Butyloxycarbonyl

DMSO = Dimethylsulfoxide

DIEA = diisopropylethylamine

Tos = tosyl

OcHex = cyclohexyl ester

20 4-MeBzl = 4-methylbenzyl

OBzl = bensyl ester

Bom = t-Benzyloxymethyl

Clz = 2-Chlorobenzyloxycarbonyl

Bzl = O-benzyl

25 For = formyl

Brz = 2-bromobenzyloxycarbonyl

TFA = trifluoroacetic acid

DMS = dimethyl sulfid

DCM = dichloromethan

30 DMF = N, N-dimethylformamide

The peptides "M15", "M35" and "M36,A" of this invention were assembled in a step-wise manner on a solid support using an Applied Biosystems Model 431A Peptide

35 Synthesizer using the standard NMP/HOBt Solvent-Activation strategy on a 0.1 mmole scale (small scale).

The peptide "M34,A" was synthesized in the same manner, except for the protective group which was  $\epsilon$ -Fmoc and Boc for Lys. Accordingly one part of the peptide was synthesized using Boc-chemistry, and the other part was synthesized using Fmoc chemistry.

The functional derivatives of the invention were prepared in analogous manner.

tert-Boc-amino acids were coupled to tert-Boc-am to acid-PAM (Nova Chemical Company Ltd., UK) resin for f ee acid (X = -OH) or MBHA(Bachem Feinchemikalien AG, Switzerland) resin for amide (X = -NH<sub>2</sub>) as hydroxybenzotriazole(HOBt) esters.

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As individual cycle for each amino acid included deprotection of the tert-Boc-group with 50% trifluoroacetic acid in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>(DCM) for 19 min, and acylation with 10-fold excess (compared to the amount of amino groups on a resin) of the protected amino acids in a mixture of 15% DMSO in N-methyl pyrrolidone (NMP) for 35 min. Between each operation several extensive washings were performed with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, DIEA and NMP. After each coupling acetylation (capping) was carried out using 10% acetic anhydride and 5% DIEA in NMP for 5 min.

With the excention of Boc-Lys(Fmoc) in the case of the peptide 34,A, all amino acids used were tert-Boc-protected at the N-terminal (obtained from Nova Chemical Company Ltd., UK), and their reactive side chains were protected with Tos in

Arg, Ochex in Asp, 4-MeBzl in Cys, OBzl in Glu, Bom in His, ClZ in Lys, Bzl in Ser and Thr, For in Trp, and Brz in Tyr.

All the solvents and other reagents for automatic peptide synthesis were from Applied Biosystems.

The reagents used in deprotection and cleavage steps were of analytical grade and used without further purification:

1,2-ethaneditiol, acetic anhydride, trifluoromethyl sulfonic acid (TFMSA), dimethyl sulfide (DMS) and p-cresol from Fluka, diethyl ether and acetonitrile from Merck and HF from AGA Gas.

The fully assembled peptide-resins were dried under high vacuum overnight. Deprotection from formyl-group on Trp and benzyl-groups was performed using "low TFMSA" method. For that 100 mg of peptide-resin was treated with 2 ml of the mixture of TFMSA(10%), TFA(50%), DMS(30%), p-cresol(8%) and dimercaptoethan(2%) for 2 h at 0°C while shaking, the procedure was followed by washing with EtOH, DCM, DMF, DIEA/DCM, DMF and DCM.

After drying under vacuum the peptide was cleaved from resin and deprotected by mixing of 10 ml liquid HF (containing 20% of 1:1 mixture of p-cresol and p-thiocresol) with 1 g of peptide-resin at 0°C for 60 min. The resin was washed 2 times with 10 ml of Et<sub>2</sub>O, peptide extracted with 20% acetonitrile/water and filtered. Lyophilization of the aqueous filtrate yielded the crude peptide.

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Preparative purifications were carried out on the crude product by HPLC on reversed phase C18 column. 10 mg of crude peptide was dissolved in 1 ml of 20% acetonitrile/water and eluted with a gradient (45 min) of 20-60 % mixture of 0.1% TFA/acetonitrile in 0.1 &

TFA/water at a flow rate of 2.0 ml/min. The fractions were collected according to the absorption detected at 238 nm.

Purity of the individual peptides was checked by analytical HPLC and determined to be 99 %. Molecular weights of the peptides were determined using Plasma Desorption Mass Spectrometer (PDMS) Model Bioion 20, Applied Biosystems, the calculated molecular weight values were obtained in each case for the purified peptide.

Table.

Purity of the individual peptides was checked by analytical HPLC and determined to be 99 %. Molecular weights of the peptides were determined using Plasma Desorption Mass Spectrometer (PDMS) Model Bioion 20, Applied Biosystems, the expected values were obtained in each case.

Galanin(1-12)-Pro-Spantide amide (C 7): (MW = 2827) IC 50 = 0.2 nM

1 13 22
Gly-Trp-Thr-Leu-Asn-Ser-Ala-Gly-Tyr-Leu-Leu-Gly-Pro-(D-Arg)-Pro-Lys-Pro-Gin-Gin-(D-Trp)-Phe-(D-Trp)-23 24
-Leu-LeuNH<sub>2</sub>

Galanin(1-12)-Pro-Pro-Pro-SP(5-11) amide (M37): (MW = 2392) IC<sub>50</sub> = 40 nM 1 5 12
Gly-Trp-Thr-Leu-Asn-Ser-Ala-Gly-Tyr-Leu-Leu-Gly-Pro-Pro-Gln-Gln-Phe-Phe-Gly-Leu-Met amide 11

 $\frac{\text{Galanin}(1-12)-\text{Pro-Pro-Pro-Ala-Leu-Ala amide (M 40):}(MW = 1980)}{\text{IC}_{50} = 13 \text{ nM}}$ 1 5 13 20

Gly-Trp-Thr-Leu-Asn-Ser-Ala-Gly-Tyr-Leu-Leu-Gly-Pro-Pro-Pro-Ala-Leu-Ala-Leu-Alaamide

Galanin(1-13)-Bradykinin(3-9) amide (M20); (MW = 2135) IC 50 = 1 nM

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Gly-Trp-Thr-Leu-Asn-Ser-Ala-Gly-Tyr-Leu-Leu-Gly-Pro-Pro-Gly-Phe-Ser-Pro-Phe-Arg amide

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Galanin(1-13)-Bradykinin(2-9) amide (M 35): (MW = 2232) IC50 = 0.2 nN 1 13 21 Gly-Trp-Thr-Leu-Asn-Ser-Ala-Gly-Tyr-Leu-Leu-Gly-Pro-Pro-Gly-Phe-Ser-Pro-Phe-Arg amide 2

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Gly-Trp-Thr-Leu-Asn-Ser-Ala-Gly-Tyr-Leu-Leu-Gly-Ala-Arg-His-Tyr-Ile-Asn-Leu-Ile-Thr-Arg-Gln-Arg-Tyramide

# Galanin(1-12)-Pro-Pro-Pro-Leuenkephalin(5-1) amide (M 41): (MW = 2078) IC 50 = 20 nM 12 20 Gly-Trp-Thr-Leu-Asn-Ser-Ala-Gly-Tyr-Leu-Leu-Gly-Pro-Pro-Leu-Phe-Gly-Gly-Tyr amide 5 1 Galanin(1-13)-Lys amide (Pro-Leuenkephalin(5-1)) (M34,A) (MW = 2223) IC 50 = 10 nM 13 14 Gly-Trp-Thr-Leu-Asn-Ser-Ala-Gly-Tyr-Leu-Leu-Gly-Pro-Lys amide N-teminus Pro-Leu-Phe-Gly-Gly-Tyr 5 1 IC 50 has been determined in displacement experiments in rat hypothalamus

#### PHARMACOLOGICAL EXPERIMENTS

1) Galanin inhibits glucose-induced insulin release, measured according to Ahrén, B., et al (Biochemical and Biophysical Research Communications, Vol. 140. No. 3, 1986, 1059-1063). By using the same procedure as the cited Ahrén B., et al, a peptide according to the invention, M15, is now shown to block the galanin-inhibited insulin release in equimolar concentration.

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#### Animals and preparation of cells.

Adult obese hyperglycemic mice (ob/ob) of both sexes were taken from a local non-inbred colony and starved 15 overnight. The animals were killed by decapitation and the islets were isolated by collagenase isolation technique. A cell suspension was prepared essentially as described by Lehrnmark, A., in Diabetologia 10, 1974, 431-438. Briefly, the islets were dissociated into single cells and small clusters by shaking in a Ca<sup>2+</sup>-Mg<sup>2+</sup>-20 deficient medium supplemented with EGTA (Ethylene glycolbis(beta-aminoethyl ether)N,N,N',N',-tetra-acetic acid, SIGMA). Thereafter, the cells were incubated at 37°C, pH 7.4, overnight in 12 ml RPMI 1640 medium (Tissue culture medium from SIGMA, which contains L-glutamine and does 25 not contain sodium bicarbonate) supplemented with 10% NUserum TM (Collaborative Research Inc., Lexington, Ma, U.S.A.), 100 IU/ml penicillin, 60 μg/ml gentamycin and 100 µg/ml streptomycin. To avoid attachment of the cells 30 to the culture flasks during incubation, the suspension was shaken gently.

#### <u>Media</u>

35 The basal medium used was a HEPES buffer (N-[2-Hydroxyethyl]-piperazine-N'-[2-ethanesulfonic acid], SIGMA), pH 7.4, physiologically balanced in cations with

 ${\tt Cl}^-$  as the sole anion. In all cases the basal medium was supplemented with 1 mg/ml albumin.

## Measurements of insulin release.

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The kinetics of insulin release were studied by perfusing pancreatic beta-cells (approx. 1 x 10<sup>6</sup>) with 20 mM or 5 mM glucose mixed with Bio-Gel P-4 polyacrylamide beads (200-400 mesh, Bio-Rad Lab., Richmond, Ca, U.S.A.) in a 0.5 ml column. The flow rate was 0.5 ml/min and 1-3 min fractions were collected and analyzed for insulin radioimmunologically, using crystalline rat insulin as a reference.

#### 15 Results.

After 60 min incubation in the presence of glucose (8.3 mM), galanin ( $10^{-7}$  M) completely abolished insulin release from

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 $34\pm2~\mu\text{U/ml}$  to  $3\pm1~\mu\text{U/ml}$  (P <0.001; N=32). The peptide of the invention,

M 15, alone (10<sup>-6</sup> M - 10<sup>-9</sup>M) dose-dependently counteracted the galanin-induced inhibition of insulin release.

Insulin release in the presence of glucose, galanin and M15 at  $10^{-6}$  M,  $10^{-7}$  or  $10^{-8}$  was  $28\pm2$   $\mu$ U/ml (N=16),  $17\pm4$   $\mu$ U/ml (N=16), and  $10\pm3$   $\mu$ U/ml (N=16), respectively. M15 at  $10^{-9}$  M was without effect.

As a result of the above experiments it can be concluded that the peptide of the invention, M15, counteracts the galanin-induced inhibition of insulin release in islets.

2) Galanin inhibits acetylcholine release, measured according to Fisone G., et al (Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. vol 84, 1987, 7339-7343). By using substantially the same procedure as the cited Fisone G., et al, a peptide according to the invention, M15, is now shown to counteract the inhibitory effects of galanin on the scopolamine-induced release of acetylcholine in vivo.

#### Microdialysis Experiments

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Surgery and basic methodology. Experiments were carried out with female CD-COBS (Charles River, Como, Italy) rats, weighing 200-260 g. Animals were anesthetized with equitensin (1% pentobarbital, 4% chloral hydrate). Guide cannula was implanted stereotoxically into the ventral hippocampus according to the following coordinates from the atlas of Paxinos and Watson (Paxinos G. and Watson C. (1986) The Rat Brain in Stereotoxic Coordinates, 2nd edn. Academic Press, Sydney.): 5 mm posterior to the bregma, 4.0 mm lateral to the midline, and 6.8 mm below the surface of the dura mater. A stylet was then inserted to keep the guide cannula patent until the next day. At the time the stylet was removed and replaced with a microdialysis probe (CMA 10, Carnegie Medicine AB, Stockholm, Sweden) containing a membrane having an exposed area of 3 x 0.5 mm. The microdialysis probe extended 3 mm beyond the end of the guide cannula; it was perfused at a constant rate of 2 µl(min with Ringer's solution (NaCl, 147 mM; CaCl<sub>2</sub>, 2.2 mM and KCl, 4.0 mM), containing 10 µM physostigmine sulfate and adjusted to pH 7.0 with NaOH. The initial 40 min perfusate was discarded. Thereafter, perfusates were collected every 20 min during a total perfusion period of 260 min. At the end of the collection period, the samples were immediately frozen on solid CO2 and lyophilized. Acetylcholine (Ach) content was quantified by a specific radioenzymatic method described in detail by Consolo S.,

et al. (J. Neurochem. 48, (1987), 1459-1465.) and Wu C.F., et al (Neurobiol. Aging 9, (1988), 357-361.) and involving (a) the conversion of choline to phosphorylcholine in the presence of choline phosphokinase and ATP, (b) the enzymatic hydrolysis of 5 acetylcholine to choline and acetic acid, (c) the reacetylation of the resulting choline to [3H]acetylcholine with the addition of [3H]acetylcoenzyme-A, 99.9 GBq/mmol, and acetyl-coenzyme A:ChAT, and (d) the separation and scintillation counting 10 of the resulting [3H]acetylcholine by extraction into tetraphenylboron-containing ketone phase by liquid-liquid ion exchange chromatography. Phosphorylation, hydrolysis and acetylation reactions were validated routinely.

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The concentration of acetylcholine in each sample was calculated by linear regression based on the radioactivity of the standards (linear from 10 fmol-25 pmol acetylcholine) with the slope equal to 7800 net dpm/pmol. The coefficient of variation of the replicate perfusate samples or acetylcholine standards was approximately 3%.

In vitro recovery of acetylcholine through three dialysis tubings was determined as previously described (Wu et al., ibid). The average recovery was 17.6± 0.5%.

At the termination of the release experiments, the placements of the dialysis probes were verified histologically by use of staining for Nissl substance.

# Effect of galanin and M 15 on the scopolamine-induced release of ACh, measured "in vivo" from the rat ventral hippocampus

5	Saline	2.0	pmoles
	Scopolamine	13.1	pmoles
	Scopolamine		
	+	6.9	pmoles
	Galanin		
10	Scopolamine	•	
	+	9.4	pmoles
	M15		

Galanin (1.56 nmoles) and M15 (3.12 nmoles) were injected i.c.v. 2 min before scopolamine (0.3 mg/kg, s.c.). ACh release was measured in the perfusate collected during the following 80 min, in four 20 min-fractions. The values are expressed as pmoles of ACh measured during the 20 min fraction corresponding to the peak of the scopolamine-effect and corresponding to the second 20 min-fraction. The data are the means of experiments carried out in two rats (n=2).

As a result of the above experiments it can be concluded that the peptide of the invention, M15, counteracts the galanin-induced inhibition of scopolamine-induced release of acetylcholine in hippocampus.

3) Effects of intrathecal galanin and C-fiber stimulation
on the flexor reflex has been described by WiesenfeldHallin Z., et al (Brain Res. 486 (1989)205-213). By using
substantially the same procedure as the cited reference,
a peptide according to the invention, M15, is shown to
have an antagonistic effect on intrathecal galanininduced facilitation of the flexor reflex. An other
peptide of the invention, M35, has given similar results
in preliminary experiments.

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## Electrophysiological study

In acute experiments, the magnitude of the polysynaptic hamstring flexor reflex in response to activation of high threshold afferents was examined in decerebrated, spinalized, unanaesthetized rats by recording the electromyogram (EMG) from the posterior bicepts femoris/semitendinosus muscles. The animals were briefly anaesthetized with Brietal®, and a tracheal cannula was inserted. The rats were mounted in a stereotaxic frame, 10 decerebrated by aspiration of the forebrain and Lidbrain and then ventilated. The spinal cord was exposed by laminectomy at thoracic level and sectioned at Thg-9. An i.t. catheter (PE 10) was implanted caudally to the transection with its tip on the left side of the lumbar 15 spinal cord  $(L_{4-5})$ . The flexor reflex was elicited by test stimuli to the sural nerve or its innervation area with single electric shocks (0.5 ms, 10 mA) of sufficient strength to activate C-fibres (Wall and Woolf, 1984). In some experiments a CS (conditioning stimulus) (1 Hz, 20 20 s) of the same strength as the test stimuli was administered to the sural nerve.

The flexor reflex was recorded as EMG activity via stainless steel needle electrodes inserted in the ipsilateral hamstring muscles. The number of action potentials elicited during the reflex was integrated over 2 s. The integrated reflex was recorded on a Gould chart recorder (Model 2400 S). During the experiments the heart rate and rectal temperature of the rat were monitored and maintained within normal limits. The proper location of the i.t. catheter was confirmed after each experiment by laminectomy.

35 Galanin (Bachem, Bubendorff, Switzerland) and Somatostatin (Ferring, Malmö, Sweden) were dissolved in 0.9% saline. All peptides were injected i.t. in a volume

of 10 ul followed by 10 ul saline to flush the catheter.

#### Data collection

A stable baseline reflex magnitude was established for at least 20 min before each i.t. injection or nerve CS. The effect of i.t. peptides or the nerve CS on the flexor reflex was expressed as percent change in reflex magnitude compared to baseline which was defined as 100%.

To test the interaction of galanin with other peptides or the sural CS, it was administered 1.5 min prior to the injection of the other peptides when the facilitatory effect of galanin had subsided or simultaneously with the sural CS.

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The antagonistic effect of intrathecal (i.t.) M-15 on the i.t. galanin-induced facilitation of the flexor reflex was measured. The peak facilitatory effect of 30 pmol galanin was 167.0±42.8% over baseline reflex magnitude.

The antagonism of M-15, injected 5-10 min after galanin was calculated as the percentage reduction of the peak facilitatory effect of galanin. Data is expressed as meant S.E.M.

25	Dose of M-15	n	% antagonism
	30 pmol	4	35.8±20.7
	300 pmol	· <b>4</b>	79.3±8.4
	3 nmol	3	93.0±3.4

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The experiments were repeated using the peptide of the invention, M35, and similar results were achieved.

As a result of the above experiments it can be concluded that peptides of the invention counteract the intrathecal galanininduced facilitation of the flexor reflex in a dose-dependent manner.

4) Liquid binding studies were conducted. Displacement of 125<sub>I</sub>-galanin by galanin, galanin fragment (1-13), Substance P fragment (4-11), galanin fragment (1-13) + Substance P fragment (4-11) in equimolar concentrations and the peptides of the invention M15, M35 and M34, A was studied. The peptides of the invention proved to bind specifically to the galanin receptor.

# Preparation of 125 I-monoiodo-Tyr26-porcine galanin

Synthetic porcine galanin(1-29) was iodinated by chloramine-T-method to yield \$125\_I-monoiodo-Tyr^26-porcine galanin (specific activity 1800-2000 Ci/mmol), (as

described by Land T., et al in: Methods in Neurosciences,

15 Ed. M. Conn, 5, 1991, 225-234), and employed in ligand binding studies carried out at equilibrium.

# Preparation of membrane fraction of Rin m 5F cells

- The establishment and cell culture of Rin m 5F (a rat pancreatic β-tumor cell-line) cells have been described earlier (Gazdav A.F., et. al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA, 77 (1980) 3519-3523). Briefly, the cells were grown in RPMI-1640 (Gibco) medium containing 10 % (v/v) fetal calf serum, 2.06 mM L-gluthamine, 100 IU/ml penicillin and 100 μg/ml streptomycin in 10 % CO<sub>2</sub> 90 % air 37°C. They were passaged every 5 days. The cells were detached from the surface of the bottles using 0.25% trypsin containing 1 mM EDTA and centrifuged at 2000 x g for 5 min at 4°C.
- The pellet was exposed for 15 min to hypoosmotic 5mm

  HEPES buffer (pH 7.4). The suspension was centrifuged at 20000xg for 15 min, the resulting pellet was resuspended in bacitracin-containing (1 mg/mg) 5 mM HEPES-buffered Krebs-Ringer solution (137 mM NaCl, 2.68 nM KCl, 1.8 mM CaCl<sub>2</sub>, 1 g/l glucose), pH 7.4, and used immediately in

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# <u>Displacement of 125</u><u>I-qalanin by qalanin and qalanin</u> receptor liqands

Displacement experiments were carried out in a final volume of 400  $\mu$ l of bacitracin-containing (1 mg/ml) 5 HEPES-buffered (5 mM) Krebs-Ringer solution, 0.05 % (w/v) of BSA (pH 7.4) in the presence of 0.1 - 0.2 nM  $^{125}I$ galanin, the membrane preparation and the increasing concentrations  $(10^{-12}-10^{-6}M)$  of unlabeled porcine galanin or of other galanin receptor ligands. Samples were 10 incubated for 30 min at 37°C. Incubation was terminated by the addition of 10 ml of ice-cold HEPES-buffered Krebs-Ringer solution, followed by rapid filtration over Whatman GF/C filters, precoated for 5 - 6 hours in 0.3 % (v/v) of polyethyleneimine solution. Filters were washed 15 with 10 ml of assay solution. Radioactivity retained on the filters was determined in a Packard gamma counter. Specific binding was defined as that displaceable by 1  $\mu M$ galanin (or appropriate concentration of a displacer).

The  $IC_{50}$  values of the displacing ligands were calculated from the computer-generated  $IC_{50}$  values as described by Land, T., et. al. (ibid).

25 Fitting of the experimental data was carried out on a Macintosh SE by means of a nonlinear least squares method using the Macintosh program "KaleidGraph".

# <u>Displacement of 125I-qalanin from membranes of Rin m 5F</u> by galanin receptor ligands

		<u>IC</u> 50
	Galanin (1-29)	1 nM
	M15	0.1 nM
35	Galanin fragment (1-13)	100 nM
	Substance P fragment (4-11)	no displacement > 10 μm

Galanin fragment (1-13)
+ Substance P fragment (4-11)
in equimolar concentrations

M35

M34,A

100 nM
10 nM

As is evident from the above experiments, the peptides of the invention are galanin receptor ligands.

The pharmacological experiments 1), 2) and 3) thus show 10 that the peptides of the invention are galanin antagonists, and the experiment 4) shows that they are galanin receptor ligands. Thus, the galanin antagonists of the invention are galanin receptor ligands, unlike other compounds which earlier have been shown to 15 antagonize a specific effect of galanin in a specific tissue by virtue of interaction with a reaction step beyond the galanin receptor - which was involved in the biological action of galanin in that given cell type. Such antagonism is not specific for galanin action, and 20 is not exerted at galanin receptor. Neither it is applicable to several tissues where galanin acts, whereas the antagonists according to the present invention are bona fide antagonists in the pharmacological meaning and exert their action at the receptor site on the outside of 25 the cell by competing with the endogenous ligand.

# Preparation of membranes from rat hypothalamus

Adult male rats (Sprague-Dawley, 180-200 g) were decapitated, the hypothalami quickly dissected and homogenized (10% mass/vol.) in 0.05 M TRIS-Cl buffer, pH 7.4. The homogenate was diluted tenfold and centrifuged at 1000 x g for 10 min. The supernatant was centrifuged at 10 000 x g for 45 min and the pellet resuspended in 5 mM Hepes buffered Krebs-Ringer solution (137 mM NaCl, 2.68 mM KCl, 1.8 mM CaCl2 1 g/l glucose), pH 7.4 to yield

a final protein concentration of 1.0 - 1.5 mg/ml.

#### Ligand binding studies in rat hypothalamus

- Displacement experiments were carried out in a final volume of 400 µl of Hepes-buffered (5 mM) Krebs-Ringer solution, 0.05 % (w/v) of BSA (pH 7.4) supplemented with bacitracin (1 mg/ml) in the presence of 0.1 0.2 nM 1251-galanin, the membrane preparation from rat
- hypothalami and increasing concentrations (10-12,10-6 M) of unlabeled galanin or of other galanin receptoligands. Samples were incubated for 30 min at 37°C.

  Incubation was terminated by the addition of 10 ml of ice-cold Hepes-buffered Krebs-Ringer solution, followed
- by rapid filtration over Whatman GF/C filters, precoated for 5-6 hours in 0.3% (v/v) of polyethylencimine solution. The filters were washed with 10 ml of assay solution. Radioactivity retained on the filters was determined in a Packard gamma counter. Specific binding
- was defined as that displaceable by 1 μM galanin. Rat and porcine galanin resulted in indistriguishable displacement curves with the membranes from rat hypothalami.
- 25 The 1C50 values of the displacing ligands were calculated by fitting of the experimental data on a Macintosh SE by means of a nonlinear least squares method using the program "KaleidaGraph".

#### **CLAIMS**

1. A galanin antagonist which is a galanin receptor ligand.

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- 2. A galanin antagonist according to claim 1, wherein said antagonist is selected from the group consisting of the peptides
- 10 H-Gly-Trp-Thr-Leu-Asn-Ser-Ala-Gly-Tyr-Leu-Leu-Gly-Pro--Gln-Gln-Phe-Phe-Gly-Leu-Met-NH<sub>2</sub>

H-Gly-Trp-Thr-Leu-Asn-Ser-Ala-Gly-Tyr-Leu-Leu-Gly-Pro--Pro-Pro-Gly-Phe-Ser-Pro-Phe-Arg-X,

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- H-Gly-Trp-Thr-Leu-Asn-Ser-Ala-Gly-Tyr-Leu-Leu-Gly-Pro--Pro-Pro-Leu-Phe-Gly-Gly-Tyr-X,
- H-Gly-Trp-Thr-Leu-Asn-Ser-Ala-Gly-Tyr-Leu-Leu-Gly-ProLys-X

Pro-Leu-Phe-Gly-Gly-Tyr-H

- wherein X represents -NH<sub>2</sub> or -OH (amide or free acid), 25 and functional analogues and functional derivatives thereof.
  - A peptide selected from the group consisting of
- 30 H-Gly-Trp-Thr-Leu-Asn-Ser-Ala-Gly-Tyr-Leu-Leu-Gly-Pro--Gln-Gln-Phe-Phe-Gly-Leu-Met-NH2,

H-Gly-Trp-Thr-Leu-Asn-Ser-Ala-Gly-Tyr-Leu-Leu-Gly-Pro--Pro-Pro-Gly-Phe-Ser-Pro-Phe-Arg-X,

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H-Gly-Trp-Thr-Leu-Asn-Ser-Ala-Gly-Tyr-Leu-Leu-Gly-Pro--Pro-Pro-Leu-Phe-Gly-Gly-Tyr-X, H-Gly-Trp-Thr-Leu-Asn-Ser-Ala-Gly-Tyr-Leu-Leu-Gly--Pro-Lys-X

Pro-Leu-Phe-Gly-Gly-Tyr-H

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wherein X represents  $-\mathrm{NH}_2$  or  $-\mathrm{OH}$  (amide or free acid), and functional analogues and functional derivatives thereof which exhibit substantially the same galanin antagonistic effect as said peptides.

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- 4. A process for the preparation of a galanin antagonist according to claim 1, characterized by
- a) sequentially incorporating in solid phase the desired amino acid residues one at a time into the growing
- 15 peptide chain, or
  - b) coupling the amino acids stepwise in a solution phase using appropriate derivatized amino acids.
- Use of a galanin antagonist which is a galanin
   receptor ligand for the preparation of a pharmaceutical preparation.
  - 6. A galanin antagonist which is a galanin receptor ligand for use in a pharmaceutical preparation.

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7. A pharmaceutical preparation comprising a galanin antagonist which is a galanin receptor ligand as an active ingredient, together with pharmaceutically acceptable additive(s).

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8. A method of treating a disorder in a mammal which depends on the physiological function of galanin at the galanin receptor, which comprises administering to said mammal a pharmacologically effective amount of a galanin antagonist which is a galanin receptor ligand.

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No PCT/SE 92/00316

L OLASSITION OF SUB-IEST MANTER III COMPANIES AND				
i. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER (if several classification symbols apply, indicate all) <sup>6</sup> According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both National Classification and IPC				
IPC5: C 07 K 7/08, 7/10, 7/02, 7/18, A 61 K 37/24, 37/42// C 07 K 7/12				
II. FIELD	S SEARCH			
		"	entation Searched 7	
Classificat	ion System		Classification Symbols	
IPC5		A 61 K; C 07 K		
			er than Minimum Documentation its are included in Fields Searched <sup>8</sup>	
SE,DK,	FI,NO c	lasses as above	•	
III. DOCL	MENTS CO	INSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT®		
Category *	Citati	on of Document.11 with Indication, where as	propriate, of the relevant passages 12	Relevant to Claim No.13
P,X	Relation to distinct the			
P,X	Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA, Vol. 89, April 1992 Zsuzsanna Wiesenfeld-Hallin et al: "Galanin-mediated control of pain: Enhanced role after nerve injury", see page 3334 - page 3337			1-7
P,X	Chemical Abstracts, volume 116, no. 11, 16 March 1992, (Columbus, Ohio, US), Stefan Lindskog et al: "The novel high-affinity antagonist, galantide, blocks the galanin-mediated inhibition of glucose-induced insulin secretion ", see page 108, abstract 99736t, & Eur. J. Pharmacol. 1992, 210(2), 183-188			1-7
**Special categories of cited documents: 10  "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance  "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date filing date  "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)  "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means.  "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed  "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but invention clied to understand the principle or theory underlying the cited to understan			e, the claimed invention annot be considered to e, the claimed invention an inventive step when the or more other such docu- obvious to a person skilled	
IV. CERTIFICATION				
Date of the 18th Au		pletion of the International Search	Date of Mailing of this International Sec. 1992 -08-21	earch Report
International Searching Authority  Signature of Authorized Officer  SWEDISH PATENT OFFICE  Elisabeth Carlborg				
orm PCT/IS		id sheet) (January 1985)	FILSWAMMI ARTIDALA	

III. DOCL	MENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT (CONTINUED FROM THE SECOND SHEET)	Relevant to Claim No
Category *	Citation of Document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to Claim No
A	Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA, Vol. 86, December 1989 Gilberto Fisone et al: "N-terminal galanin-(1-16) fragment is an agonist at the hippocampal galanin receptor", see page 9588 - page 9591	1-7
A	Chemical Abstracts, volume 112, no. 1, 1 January 1990, (Columbus, Ohio, US), Kjeld Hermansen et al: "On the nature of the galanin action on the endocrine pancreas: studies with six galanin fragments in the perfused dog pancreas", see page 77, abstract 807z, & Acta Endocrinol. 1989, 121(4), 545-550	1-7
A	Chemical Abstracts, volume 111, no. 23, 4 December 1989, (Columbus, Ohio, US), Lagny-Pourmir I. et al: "Structural requirements for galanin interaction with receptors from pancreatic beta cells and from brain tissue of the rat ", see page 72, abstract 209268y, & Peptides (Fayetteville, N.Y.) 1989, 10(4), 757-761	1-7

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM THE SECOND SHEET	<u></u>
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	•
V. X OBSERVATIONS WHERE CERTAIN CLAIMS WERE FOUND LINSEADCHARLE	
This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 47/2) (a)	for the following recessor
1. Claim numbers	nor the tollowing reasons:
See PCT Rule 39.1(iv): Methods for treatment of the human body by surgery or therapy, as well as diagnostic methods.	or animal
2. Claim numbers, because they relate to parts of the international application that do not complete requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically	v with the prescribed
requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specificall	ý; <b>,</b>
3. Claim numbers	googned and third oon
tences of PCT Rule 6.4(a).	second and time sen-
VI. OBSERVATIONS WHERE UNITY OF INVENTION IS LACKING 2	
This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application as follows	
as tonows	•
··	
1. As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search reportions of the international application.	ort covers all searchable
<ol> <li>As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this internation only those claims of the international application for which fees were paid, specifically claims:</li> </ol>	nal search report covers
3. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international ed to the invention first mentioned in the the claims. It is covered by claim numbers:	search report is restrict-
	j
4. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, the International did not invite payment of any additional fee.	Searching Authority
Remark on Protest	
The additional search fees were accompanied by applicant's protest.	
No protest accompanied the payment of additional seach fees.	

## ANNEX TO THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT ON INTERNATIONAL PATENT APPLICATION NO.PCT/SE 92/00316

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned international search report. The members are as contained in the Swedish Patent Office EDP file on The Swedish Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
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#### IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application Number : Unassigned Confirmation No.: Unassigned

International Application No. : PCT/EP2006/007389

Applicant(s) : Claus FROHBERG and Ralf-Christian SCHMIDT

I.A. Filing Date : July 24, 2006

Title : OVEREXPRESSION OF STARCH SYNTHASE IN

**PLANTS** 

TC/Art Unit : Unassigned Examiner: : Unassigned Docket No. : 65084.000050

Customer No. : **21967** 

MAIL STOP PCT

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

#### INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, and in compliance with the duty of disclosure set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants submit herewith a copy of the references listed on the attached Form PTO-SB/08B (modified) for consideration and to be made of record herein by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in the above-captioned application.

Several of the references included in this Information Disclosure Statement were cited in the International Search Report (PCT/ISA/210) and Written Opinion of the International Searching Authority (PCT/ISA/237), mailed November 17, 2006, and in the International Preliminary Report on Patentability (PCT/IPEA/409), mailed September 3, 2007, for International Patent Application PCT/EP2006/007389, a copy of each of which is enclosed. Also enclosed is Applicant's Reply to the Written Opinion filed May 21, 2007.

This Information Disclosure Statement is not to be construed as a representation that a search has, or has not, been conducted. The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement is not to be construed as admission that the information cited in the Information Disclosure Statement is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(b).

PATENT APPLICATION NO: *UNASSIGNED* ATTORNEY DOCKET NO: 65084.00050

For the convenience of the Examiner in considering the cited references, a copy of each of the cited references is enclosed with this communication. In considering the cited references, it may be noted by the Examiner that certain of the references may contain markings, underlinings, and/or other notations. These markings, underlinings, and/or other notations are not to be construed as drawing the Examiner's attention either to selected parts or away from other parts of the cited references. Any such markings were either present on the copies of the cited references obtained by the associated individuals, or were made thereon during the study of the references by the associated individuals.

Consideration of the foregoing plus the prompt return of a copy of the enclosed Form SB/08B with the Examiner's initials in the left column in accordance with MPEP § 609 are respectfully requested.

PATENT APPLICATION NO: UNASSIGNED ATTORNEY DOCKET NO: 65084.000050

#### **CONCLUSION**

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b), this Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted within three months of the filing date of a national application other than a continued prosecution application under § 1.53(d). Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that no fee is required for consideration of this Information Disclosure Statement. In the event that any fees are deemed necessary, please charge or credit any such variance to the undersigned's **Deposit Account No. 50-0206**.

Respectfully submitted,
HUNTON & WILLIAMS LLP

Dated:	January 17, 2008	By:	

Robert M. Schulman Registration No. 31,196

Christopher J. Nichols, Ph.D. Registration No. 55,984

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RMS/CJN:cdh